Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 2 – 6 are original. Claims 7 – 14 are withdrawn. No new matter is included by these amendments. Consideration of all amendments is respectfully requested.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of changing the audible volume level of a digital signal comprising:

providing a destination volume value to a DSP; and

with the DSP, gradually incrementing the volume level of the digital signal to the destination volume value within a predetermined time period;

whereby any destination volume designated by the destination volume value is achieved in the digital signal in the same amount of time and a size of the volume level increment is determined according to the destination volume, the volume level of the digital signal, and the predetermined time period.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the incrementing step further comprises:

gradually incrementing the digital signal within a predetermined sample number corresponding to the predetermined time period.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the incrementing step further comprises:

subtracting the current volume value of the digital signal from the destination volume value;

dividing the result from the subtracting step by the predetermined sample number to obtain a volume step;

incrementing the output signal by the volume step in a continuous fashion until

the volume destination is reached.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the result from the subtracting step is a positive number.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the result from the subtracting step is a negative number.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the predetermined sample number is user-selectable.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A Digital Signal Processor (DSP) for adjusting the volume of a digital signal stored in a data stream, the DSP comprising:

a processing unit for processing the data stream;

a first memory coupled to the processing unit for storing a destination volume value; and

a second memory coupled to the processing unit for storing a time_determining value;

wherein the processing unit adjusts the volume of the signal stored in the data stream according to the time_determining value such that the adjustment from a current volume value of the signal to the destination volume value is accomplished within a predetermined time.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 7 further comprising a program memory coupled to the processing unit for storing a program controlling the flow of operations in the DSP.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 8 wherein the program memory comprises a

ROM type memory.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 7 wherein the first memory comprises a register.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 7 wherein the second memory comprises a register.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 7 further comprising a data memory for storing temporary variables.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 12 wherein the data memory comprises an SRAM type memory.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The DSP in claim 7 wherein the second memory stores a sample number corresponding to the predetermined time.